TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1868.

IN SENATE.

Mr. COLLAMER called up the bill reorganizing the Post Office Department, which was passed.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, from the Military
Committee, reported a bill to authorize an increase of
Major and Br gadier Generals in the volunteer service. Mr. SUMNER presented a petition from colored citizens of New Jersey, protecting against any appropriation for

oolonization.

Mr. FOSTER offered a resolution, which was adopted,
Mr. FOSTER offered a resolution, which was adopted,
requesting the President of the United States, if not inrequesting the President of the United States, if not incompatible with the public interest, to lay before the Sencompatible with the public interest, to lay before the Senate any correspondence which has taken place between this Government and the Government of France on the subject of mediation, arbitration, or other measures, lookto a termination of the existing civil war

A NATIONAL CURRENCY.

The national currency bill was then taken up.

Mr. SHERMAN and this measure was proposed at the
last session, but met with but little attention. Since then it has received most careful consideration from persons in all portions of the country, and especially of the commit-tees of the House and Senate. We are now in a condition when something must be done to sustain the finances of the country. We are in the midst of war, and gold at so high a premium that it is virtually driven out of circulation, while the necessities of the Government require the use of a large amount of money. Already Congress, at the last sees on, finding the Government without any money, authorized the issue of Government notes; but there were great objections to the continued and increased issue of this paper money. It produced excessive inflation of cur rency and depreciated greatly the value of this paper money. There is great objection on account of the facility for excessive expansion, the danger of lavish and corropt ex enditure, the danger of fraud in management and supervision, and the impossibility of providing it in sufficient amount for the wants of the people when the expenditures are reduced to an equality with the revenue. At the time when a bill was offered in the House to increase the issue of this paper money, gold was at 136½, the next day it rose to 138, and within three days to 141, and in six days to 1484, and never suffered a decline until there was a dis evinced in the Senate to check this over-issue position evinced in the Secure to increased issue caused. That simple disposition to check this increased issue caused. Another objection to gold to fall three or four per cent. Another objection t this paper money is that it is not redeemable or convertilacking the elements of a sound national currency These notes are also made the basis of bank issues; and the merease of this local bank circulation is in precisely the same ratio of increase as that of the United State notes. Something ought to be done to check this excessive issue of bank paper. He had a curious statement in compisint of the proposed two per cent tax, sent to him from a bank in Pennsylvania; it shows that the capital stock was \$200,000, while its circulation is \$559,600; the whole assets are not enough to pay their d-positors and th current debte, leaving the whole circulation secured by leans and discounts! And he feared that many of the backs of the country were in the same state. He thought circulation secured by he could prove that in time of war these local banks, with their paper issue, were immical to the country. A privilege to issue this money in times of suspension of specie payment is the same as a privilege to coin money—a privi-lege which in times of war especially should only be exer-cised by the State itself, and not by any private corporation.

The great danger of this paper currency is from an over
The French assignate

issue; all histo y has shown this. The French assignate were at first g od, but by the over issue became worthless. The Austrian paper money by over issue became so deprec at d that one thousand dollars was worth only one in gold. The Continental money fell to about the same discount; If it had been restrained within its proper limits it might have continued good. This country will bear the issue of about \$400,000 000 of paper money, and no more. The moment you go over that you begin to bring ruin upon the country and produce an immense inflation and wild speculation. The plan of currency will be safe, far safer than any other paper currency; it will have the credit of the United States, a deposit of one-fourth the circulation, and the liability of the stockholder to a certain extent. These bills will be convertible at any time into the lawful money of the United States, and the currency will be form all ever the country, so that a bill issued in Maine will be taken in California. Fanks will be organized al over the country, and a demand will be made for the bonds of the Government, and a great market for bonds made.

There is no lack of capital, there is capital enough t carry on the business of the country, begging for invesmeet; there is a lack of confidence and system. This sys tem will furnish a convenient mode for the collection taxes all over the country, these notes being receivable for taxes every where. He behaved it would be beneficial to the banks; it would tend greatly to prevent counterfeiting, now so prevalent. The notes of over 1,200 banks have been counterfeited or altered, over 3,000 altered, 1,700 sperious notes 460 varieties of imitations. The number of banks in 1862 was estimated at 1,500, the notes of all were counterfeited except 253; the number of kinds of imtations is 1,861, the a terations 3,039, and the spurious bills ernment. This system will also tend to promote nation ality, by nationalizing the currency of the country, and binding tog-ther the whole country. He referred to the cases of the Bank of England and France, and claimed that it was necessary for a Government, in order to borrow large amounts from the people, to have some sgency of this kind; and these banks referred to have slways been the great support of the Government in times of war and trouble. If we place our finances in a healthy and sound condition we may be able to carry on the war and to previde for the payment of the public debt, but if we continue this over issue of paper money, without any limit, the re-cult cannot but be universal financial rum. He did not take so gloomy a view of our finances as many did ; indeed, and with other modern nations carrying on large ware, our fluancial condition was wonderfully good at the very commencement of the war between England and France the English three per cents, fell to fifty-one, and then to forty-five, and ruin seemed to be staring every one in the face, a state of things far worse than any thing we have seen; but that people did not stop, but persevered til the end. And the French securities at one time were actually worth nothing, yet that great people went on, till the genius of Napoleon and the sun of Austerlitz restored the finances of the Government. He wished above all things to establish a sound financial system, as the promiment means of preserving our nationality, and one great means of preserving our national life is the establishment

of a sound national currency.

Mr. Powert's ame dment requiring the banks to keep specie in their vaults to the amount of one-fourth the recirculation was rejected—yeas 14, mays 22. Mr. POWELL moved to strike out the provision

cluding these notes from being received in payment of imthe same notes which it forces the people to take. Re jected Year-Messrs. Bayard, Davis, Dixon. Foot, Ken Powell, Richardson, Turpie, and Wall-9. Nays 27. Mr. HOWARD moved to smend so as to require thirty per cent, of the capital stock shall be paid in in gold or

Mr. POWELL offered an amendment requiring the as sent of the States to the organization of these banks. Re-

Mr. HENDERSON offered an amendment increasing the stock of these banks. He seared the establishment of a large number of small banks located in inaccessible He was willing to do all he could to aid the Gov erament; he was willing even to vote for measures he might consider of doubtful constitutionality, but he thought the future would show the necessity of this amendment. Rejected-yeas 6, nays 31 The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr ARNOLD offered a resolution, which was adoptedinstructing the Committee on Ways and Means to inquire into and report the effect of the workings of the excise haw upon manufacturers of limited means.

The House resumed the consideration of the joint reso lu ion authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to adjust the

equitable claims of contractors for naval supplies and re-gula log contracts with the Department. and settle the claims of contractors for naval supplies, who during the last fiscal year ending 30th June, 1862, have furnished to the Departm at more than fifty per centum above the quantities specified in their contrac s without default therein; sad for the purpose of bearing said claims may associate with the chief of the bureau with which contract was made the chief of any other bureau, subject to an appeal to the Secre ary from their decision further provides that no contractor shall be allowed except upon the excess over the stipulated quantity, and fif y per centum in addition therete, and upon such excess not more than sufficient to make the price thereon equto the fair market value of the supplies at the time and place of delivery. It further provides that all claimants under any such contracts shall present their claims to the De-partment within six months after the passage of this act, be forever barred from any equitable claim on account of said contracts, and no contractor who in his proposals has offered supplies at fictitious prices shall be estilled to the benefit hereof. It also provides that the Department, in contracting, shall be at liberty to reject the offer of any person who, as principal or surety, has been a de faulter in any previous contract. When supplies are exhausted in contracts with any bureau before the expiration of the fiscal year proposals shall be advertised in the usual

Manner for additi nal supplies.]

After debate by Mesers, EDWARDS, KELLOGG, and WICKLIFFE against the bill, and Messis. ODELL. CONKLING, and SEDGWICK for it, the bill was recommitted to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

The House resumed the consideration of the report from the Committee on Elections, concluding with a resolution that BENJAMIN F. FLANDERS is entitled to his seat to this House as a Representative from the State of Lou-

Mr. MAYNARD said if this Union was ever saved it would be by the leval men of the South, the men who were now languishing in Southern pricous for refusing to take an oath to the rebel Government. "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved."

Mr. THOMAS, of Massachusette, said he would under-

take to say there was not one man in ten in Massachusetts who would sauction the doctrine of State suicide. He thanked God there was not one. Mr. ELIOT replied that a large majority of the sensible people of Massachusetts were opposed to the doctrine of

his colleague

Mr. THOMAS rejoined, repeating his assertion, and adding that his colleague had not advocated that doctrine to he people of Massachusetts during the last campaign.

Mr. ELIOT replied that the doctrine had been advoca-

Mr. DAWES did not think Massachusetts politics had

any thing to do with the question of the admission of the members from Louisiana.

Mr. MAYNARD continued his argument in favor of the admiss on of the Louisians members, saying that they were the representatives not of Mr. Shepley, but of the people of the respective districts, and that under the clause of the Constitution guarantying to every State a republicas form of government they were entitled to representa-tion. In reply to a remark attributed to some Massachuset's Representative that the rebellious States had con mitted political suicide, be said this was not so; they still Mr. VOORHEES said the States had not committed

suicide; they had been murdered by military power.

Mr. MAYNARD next argued that the military governors appointed by the President for Tennessee and Louisiana had been legally appointed, and also contended that in time of war the military power necessarily eliminated the civil. The power of the President to guaranty a republican form of government to each State carried with it the power to use the necessary machinery to effect that object. If members came here forced upon the people at the point of the beyonet they could be rejected, but these were real Representatives and should be admitted.

After a long debate the House adjourned

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1863. IN SENATE.

A m ssage was received from the President, in response to a resolution of the Senate, transmitting the report of the Secretary of State, relative to the visit of M. Mercier to

MORE GENERALS FOR THE ARMY.

Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, called up the bill to acresse the number of Major and Brigadier Generals in the volunteer service. [The bill provides an increase of 30 Mejor and 170 Brigadier Generals, making the whole number 70 Msjor and 270 Brigadier Generals]

Mr. GRIMES was opposed to the bill, and asked for the

ayes and notes on its passage.

Mr. CARLILE wanted to know how many of these Generals were not on duty. He thought this increase would add greatly to the expense of the Government Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, and many Generals

had been appointed when the new forces were raised. He did out believe so many were needed, and he thought some imit should be placed on the number, or else nominati of new Generals will be sent to the Senate every day. Mr. GRIMES said there was more objection to the quality of the Generals than the quantity. Many of our Generals ought to be removed and better men put in their

A NATIONAL CURRENCY AND THE BANKS At the expiration of the morning hour the CHAIR called up the special order, being the bill to aid the State of Missouri in emancipation; but the unfinished business of vesterday-the currency bill-being, however, first in order, vas taken up.

An amendment offered by Mr. HARRIS was adopted, that if any bank or banking association, engaged in banking, shall be the holder of United States boods to the amount of fifty per cent. of its capital stock, it may transfer and deliver to the United States Treasurer such bonds or part thereof, in the manner provided by this act, and will be emitted to receive circulating notes equal to eighty par cent, of the bonds so transferred and delivered.

Mr. COLLAMER said this bill could not be regarded

as a war measure, sithough every thing proposed now is brought forward as a great measure, or as something to ave the Union. This bill could have no effect for some two or three years, and he supposed this war was to come to an end at some period. But this bill is put forward as a great financial measure, and its great object and aim is to withdraw the local bank circulation all over the couptry and establish in place thereof a great national currency, and unless this object is attained the bill will fail. But what wou'd be the effect of such a measure? In New England especially and most of the Middle and Western States the business and all the interests of the people are intimately connected and bound up with these panks, and the winding up of all there banks would create such a state of distress and financial confusion as could not e described. And it might be well to inquire if we have the power to extinguish all these banks even in these times, when it is almost deemed heretical to question the 1,685. This system would tend to prevent all this. The backs will have the benefit of being depositaries of the Govexient of power. There are many powers which belong of Congress, such as the right of State taxation State laws, &c. The Supreme Court decided in a case in Maryland that the United States might establish a bank with branches and the State could not tax them; and in a case in Kentucky the Court decided that the local banks were constitutional, and the State had a perfect right to authorize them. That right must certainly be independent of the General Government; and if the State cannot tax a United States institution out of existence, then the General Government cannot tax a State institution out of existence. They might as well undertake to tax the schools and colleges of New England so Leavily as to comnel them to close. He had great doubts of the propriety of the United States becoming responsible for the redemp-tion of these bills. The United States at one time established a bank with a capital of thirty-five millions, and that bank was only closed because it was regarded as a dangerous political engine which could be used by the party in power. But this bill proposes to establish a bank with a capital of three bundred millions, and allow the Secretary of the Treasury to establish three thousand banks throughout the country, mostly under his control. Now, if the old United States Bank furnished well-grounded apprehensions of being us-d as a dang-rous political engine, what can be said of the present scheme? If the Secretary of the Treasury could be furnished with all this power, and if he chose to use it, he must be a buggling politician if he could not make himself Pro sident any day. In time of war no nation is expected to pay all its expenses as it goes along. If it pays the interest on its debt that is all that is ever expected, and that we are now doing, and can continue to do. He did not see how the proposed plan was any better than the plan we are now pursuing of issuing paper, which circulates among the people. But, instead of issuing the amount we need, which would go out among the people without any cost to the Government to place it in circulation, it is proposed to a tablish all these banks and pay them twelve one a year for circulating these notes That is the

In regard to the claim that this bill is to establish a uniform currency, he contended that it was as impossible to make a uniform currency by law as to regulate the circu arion of the blood. In former times, when great states men undertook to establish a paper currency, they never bought of putting it upon any other ground than that of being redeemable in specie. The only basis upon which they pretended to issue paper money was from its immediate relation to that which the world regarded as of per maneut value. When the United States Bank was estab lished it was not proposed to extinguish the State banks; that, with other extraordinary powers, was left to be brought forward in these latter days. He controled that the proposed tax of two per cent. on circulation was equal to three or four per cent. on their capital, which would necessarily cause the banks to suspend operations. If the Canufacturer is taxed a per centage on his productions, he an place the tax on the price of the goods, and the burden loes ut fall on him entire y; but the banks can do no such hing. He contended that there would be no inducement for capitalists to establish these banks, even if the others were destroyed. They would have to invest \$100,000 in United States bonds, at a fixed va'ue, for twenty years; and they can have \$90,000 for circulation; but they must bill authorizes the Secretary of the Navy to adjust le the claims of contractors for navel supplies, who get \$4 000 from the Government and \$5,000 as interest on the \$90,000 circulation. There would be no exchanges, and that is all they could make without cheating. The regular expenses, together with the less on the amount the vaults, would be \$3,800, leaving only a little ver \$5 000. He considered it very unwise, at a time like this, to put in operation an experiment of this kind, destroy ing the total banks and bringing rule on the prople. Without the assistance of the banks the State of Verment could

plain English of this scheme.

not have placed her regiments in the field. Mr. SHERMAN thought that under this bill banks cou d make a reasonable profit; but, if not, and no induce-ment could be presented to organize these banks, then this whole scheme would fall to the ground and no harm could The honorable Senator from Vermont had argu d that the United States would receive no benefit from bill, but suppose we could induce the banks of the country to withdraw ab ut one hundred millions of their circulati and invest in United States bonds and take instead this new circulation. It would immediately create a demand for bonds to a large extent over the real demand of one bundred millions. The United States would get the benefit of this, and these banks would be useful as depositories and convenient for the collection of all debts. He claimed that the bill would not destroy the local banks, but they might without any difficulty, come under the operatio of the bil. He knew that many capital at were ready to go into this business of banking, and he thought that in six months at least fifty millions of bonds would be taken in this way. He could see none of the dangers feered by the

Senator, but thought this measure calculated to maintain the credit and preserve the nationality of the Government.

Mr. COLLAMER replied at some length, reaffirming

Mr. CHANDLER thought if there was any thing in this bill it was good. There might not be much demand for these banks and notes in the East, but in the West there would be, as their circulation was mostly gone, and this would furnish a better currency than they had had. The question of carrying on this war was a question of finance. If we can keep up our finances, we can carry on the war. He thought it the duty of the Government to protect its own currency, and tax banks, if necessary. This was a question of whether we would protect a few banks in the East or protect this great nation. He would sacrifice banks and niggers, and every thing else to save this nation They of the West did not want the notes of the Eastern

banks; they had rather have the green backs.

Mr. ARNOLD offered an amendment to insert the word

'Providence' in the names of cities designated in the bill.

He said that the city of Providence ought to be recognised as one of the commercial centres of the country. It was the second city in regard to the number of its banks, and the fourth city in regard to their capital. Adopted.
On motion of Mr. SHERMAN, Chicago and St. Louis

Mr. POWELL offered an amendment requiring the banks, in twelve months after the war is closed, to redeem 50 per cent. of their circulation in specie, and in two years to redeem the whole of it. R-jected—yeas 14, nays 22. Mr. HOWARD opposed the bill as unwi-e and impoli-tic, as tending to flood the country with irredeemable cur-rency, tending to make war on local banks, and to create

Mesars. CARLILE and DAVIS also spoke against Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, contended that the bill was not a war upon banks. He was sorry to hear the old predictions of ruin made. They had been often made, and proved false predictions. He did not believe the passage

of the bill would make any disturbance at all in the com-mercial interests of his State.

Mr. DOOLITTLE said, as an original question, he should hold that the State had no right to issue paper money; but the practice of the country and the decision of the court has been the other way, and banks were organized; and at the beginning of the war the currency was practically the notes of these banks, which, when they su-pended was irredeemable paper currency. He believed the Government could not at this time return to gold and eliver currency; but the Government must control in some way the currency of the country, and must not allow the banks of the country to flood the country and control Mr. POWELL moved to adjourn. Rejected—yeas 7,

Messrs. KING and TRUMBULL presented petitions in favor of a reliable camp hospital and ambulance corps.

The Senate then adjourned, with an understanding that the vote should be taken at one o'clock to morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

On motion of Mr. STEVENS, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole, (Mr. McKNIGHT in the chair,) and resumed the consideration of the naval appropriation bill. The pending question was on the amendment offered by Mr. Calvert, that no part of this appropriation shall go to pay the seventy-six midshipmen appointed by the Secre-

Mr. SEDGWICK defended the Secretary of the Navy, and claimed that the Secretary had not viciated the Cou-

Mr. RIDDLE was in favor of retaining this class of midshipmen, but pass a resolution censuring the Secretary Mr. CALVERT hoped that the House would not forget its dignity by allowing such encroachments and usurpations

of power in the Secretary.

Mr. WADSWORTH condemned the act, and said while some States had fifteen or sixteen appointees, Kentucky Mr. EDWARDS said members asking for an appoint ment were disregarded, while a Senator was listened to and

given all artent on.

Mr. KELLOGG, of Illinois, thought it was time that the House should, by a direct vote, assert their rights and rebuke the Secretary for this usurpation of authority.

Mr. CALVERT'S amendment was adopted by a vote of 49

Mr. STEVENS offered an amendment in the pature of new section, that while the rebellion lasts each Congressional district in the leval States shall be entitled to one midshipman as heretofore, on the nomination of the mem-bers of Congress. Mr. COLFAX moved to amend so as to include dele-

gates. The section as amended was adopted.

Mr. R. CONKLING offered an amendment that no midshipman shall be dismissed from the Naval School except for misconduct until the expiration of his usual term, any thing in this act to the contrary notwithstanding. Pending the amendment the Committee rose and the

SOUTHERN ITEMS.

The Louisiana Legislature adjourned on the 3d of January. Among other business a resolution was passed changing the seat of government from Opelousas to Shreveport, on Red river. The militis bill which was passed tes in all men, foreigners included, between seventeen and fifty, and makes very few exemptions. The Governor is to call out the whole militia immediately.

On the 19th ultimo Judge Jenes, of the Confederate District Court, denvered a charge at Huntsville, Alabama, on the subject of selling cost n to the "Yankees." The penalty for the violation of the law is the forfeiture of the value of the cotton sold, and also five years' imprisonment. The Judge instructed the Grand Jury to find presentments against all who had violated this law. He also stated that to threat of injury to property amounted to compulsion; that in order to amount to such duress as would form a legitimate excuse, it must involve the danger of less of

The Tall:dega (Ala.) Reporter represents the wheat crop of that region, which is very large, as remarkably promising.

The Legislature of Mississippi has passed a law providing that not over three seres of cotton shall be planted to the hand, under a penalty of five hundred dollars per acre, balf to go to the informer.

There were 7,353 soldiers in the Richmond Hospitale on the 9th of January, the largest number, 1,775, being from North Carolina; Georgia, with 1,595, coming next.

A correspondent of the Chattanooga Rebel, writing from the comp near Vickeburg, expresses his surprise and gratification at "the vest breadth of land cultivated in corn during the past sesson in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and He thinks these States themselves can keep starvation away from every household during the present

COITON FROM CHINA.

Among the many revolutions produced by our civil war, not the least remarkable is the importation of cotion and cotton fabrics from China to America, of which fact we are apprized by a telegraphic despatch from Sen Franci co dated February 5th. According to this despatch the ship Emily Baring had arrived at Sau Francisco from Shanghai, with seven hundred bales of drills and steetings from China, and advices that Lereafter our market will be iberally supplied with cotton goods from that quarter. Three large ships took cargoes of cotton from Japan to England during December. The quality was rather inferior, but fine. Had any one predicted such a transaction as this three years ago he would have been considered a madman, since at that time China was one of the most lug crative markets for the sale of our cotton manufactures. Our intestine troubles, however, and the consequent withfrawal of our cotton from the markets of the world, have ad the off-ct to stimulate its production and manufacture in Asia, and especially in China; and we have now the strange spectacle presented of civilized nations depend upon a barbarous people for the article by which they are cost exclusively cloth-d. Among all the " sundry and manifold changes of the world" this certainly is one of the most remarkable of any on record .- Newark Advertiser.

LAND EXCITEMENT AT PORT ROYAL.

The latest number of the "New South," published at Port Royal, says :

"The entire population of Beaufort and the Islands are now on the qui vive for the approaching lant seles. Opinions of the most diverse character are entertained on the subject. It is confidently asserted that the sales will be postpoued, but many are as confident to at they will go on.
Some regard an investment in them as the wildest speculation, while others consider the prospect of fortunes to be made by the cultivation of the king of staples as very fair. Some think the bidding will be spirited, and others that few will be found so foolish as to invest in what may soon pass into rebel hands, either by a peace or by an occupa-tion by Confederate forces. One thing is certain, the soner the plantations pass into private hands the better for the laborers now upon them. If the capacity of the n gro for persistent and profitable labor 1s ever to be proved, it must be done by private enterprise. Treated as a responsible free laborer, the negro will soon put at rest the calumnies of his enemies that he is too indolent to work for wages, and that he needs the stimulus of the ash to make him a profitable agriculturist. There are men in the department who are willing to risk their money is the experiment, and we hope the opportunity will be afforded. If the sale is postponed, the planting time will have passed and another season will have been lost."

WASHINGTON.

LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND POREVER, ONE AND INSEPARABLE. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1863. THE EMANCIPATION EDICT IN LOUISIANA

sident Lincoln, in his "Edict of Emancipation," issued on the 1st of January last, after "ordering and declaring" that all persons held as slaves within certain designated States and parts of States ' are and henceforth shall be free," added the following recommendation, obviously intended for the instruction of those who were the beneficiaries of bis proclamation :

"And I bereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abs his from all violence, unless in necessary self-defence; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages."

It will be remembered by our readers that Pre

It is evident that the President, in releasing, so far as he could, the slaves of the Insurgent States from the obligations of laboring for their former masters, did not contemplate their introduction into the "Palace of Idleness," whose pleasures have been sung by the poet. He meant that they should work "in all cases when allowed," and not from the United States, a follows, to wit:
"The President of the United States shall deliver to to abuse their newly-acquired liberty by exacting more than "reasonable wages."

Called to enforce the proclamation in Louisians, Gen. Bunks has given validity and application to this as well as the other features of the edict, and the regulations which he has made under the head of "labor" and "wages," in conformity with the

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF. New Orleans, January 29, 1863.
The proclamation of the President of the United States, dated January 1, 1863, is published in General Orders for

the information and government of the officers and so'diers of this command, and all persons acting under their author ty. It designates portions of the State of Louisiana which are not to be affected by its provisions. The laws of the United States, however, forbid officers of the army and navy to return slaves to their owners, or to decid claim of any person to the service or labor of another and the inevitable conditions of a state of war unavoidable leprive al classes of citiz ns of much of that absolute reedom of action and control of property which local law and the continued peace of the country guarantiel and se cured to them. The forcible seizure of fugitives from ser vice or labor by their owners is inconsistent with these laws and conditions, masmuch as it leads to personal viclence and the disturbance of the public peace, and it can not be permitted. Officers and soldiers will not encourage or assist slaves to leave their employers, but they cannot compel or authorize their return by force. The public interest peremptorily demands that all per-

one without other means of support be required to main ain themselves by labor. Negroes are not exempt from this law. Those who leave their employers will be com-pelled to support themselves and families by labor upon the ublic works. Under no circumstances whatever can hey be maintained in idleness, or allowed to wander through the par-shes and cities of the State without em-ployment. Vagrancy and crime will be suppressed by an

ployment. Vagrancy and crime will be suppressed by an enforced and constant occupation and employment.

Upon every consideration, labor is entitled to some equitable proportion of the crops it produces. To secure the objects both of capital and labor, the sequestration commission is hereby authorized and directed, upon conference with planters and other parties, to propose and es-tablish a yearly system of negro labor, which shall provide for the food, clothing, proper treatment, and just compen-sation for the negroes, at fixed rates, or an equitable pro-portion of the yearly crop, as may be deemed advisable. It should be just, but not exorbitant or onerous. When accepted by the planter or other parties, all the conditions of continuous and faithful service, respectful deportment, correct discipline, and perfect subordination, shall be enforced on the part of the negroes by the officers of the Government. To secure their payment, the wages o This may not be the best, but it is now the only practi

cable system. Wise men will do what they can when the cannot do what they would. It is the law of success. It . Wise men will do what they can when they three years from the reatorstion of peace under this vo-untary system of labor the State of Louisians will produc three-fold the product of its most prosperous year in the

The quartermaster's department is charged with the duty of barvesting corn on descrited fields and cultivating uned estates. Unemployed negroes will be engage in this rervice under the control of suitable ageuts of planters, with a just compensation in food, clothi money, consistent with the terms sgreed upon by the commission, and under such regulations as will tend to keep families together, to impart self-supporting habits to the negroes, and protect the best interests of the people and the Government. By command of Major-General Banks:

RICHARD B IRWIN Lieut Col. Ase't Adj't General.

These regulations are so obviously made in accordance with the spirit and letter of the President's proclamation that we are surprised to find any admirer of that paper dissenting from the steps taken by Geo. Banks to give force and application to the President's injunctions. It would seem that the iridescent hues which once spread such an aureole of glory around the proclamation in the eyes of certain political theorists have now so completely vanished that the latter cannot be just in appreciating the proper merits of the document. For instance, the New York Tribune denounces the order of Gen. Banks, made in literal pursuance of the proclamation, as not "creditable" to him, and thinks it reads-

"As if is-ued a year or more ago, in the baleyou days of Federal fugitive slave hunts, and of the unlimited supremacy of Border State counsels. In short, it does what may be done by the commander of a distant department to annul the President's proclamation and counteract its effect within the limits of the district under his control If this s not its purport and result, what shall be said of such arange as this?
... Officers and soldiers will not encourage or assist slaves

to leave their employers, but they cannot compel or authorize their return by force."

Well, what shall be said of a "Proclamation of Freedom" which enjoins on its subjects to "abstain from violence" against their former masters, and in all cases, when allowed, to labor for reasonable wages" in the service of their employers? Such is the "recommendation" of the President, and Gen. Banks has simply enforced the views of Mr. Lincoln in the premises. It is true that, under this order, the emancipated slaves are to be taught that freedom is not license, and that liberty does not mean exemption from labor. Some those who have run away from comfortable expectation that freedom would be a paradise of will return to their old masters, carrying such tidings to the plantations as to practically nullify the proclamation from which so much was expected." But for such results neither Gen. Banks nor President Lincoln can be held responsible, except by those who expected to see the negroes of the South maintained in luxurious ease by the Government. This latter may be a "military necessity" in the eyes of some political philosophers. but it was not so considered by Mr. Lincoln on the 1st of January last, and therefore was not embraced in the terms of the Emancipation Edict then issued.

The Coast Survey steamer Bibb, Capt. Boutelle, towed the disabled transport Pilot Boy, of Gen. Foster's expedi-tion, one hundred and thirty miles towards Port Royal.

A NEGLECTED PLAN.

It will be remembered by our readers that the President devoted the greater part of his last annual message to the statement, explanation, and in our city for the estensible purpose of he said, have for its certain effect "to save the "higher plane" of "Literature and Lo Union." That policy was presented by him to the amendments to the Constitution, embodying the details of his "plan," which he was "confident would secure peace more speedily and maintain it | nineteen years' career as an avowed Dimore permanently than can be done by force alone."

The "plan" of the President, proposed as an addition to the provisions of the fundamental law of the land, was conceived in the following supplementary articles, which he recommended to the adoption of Congress preliminary to their submission to the States for their ratification :

" Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (two-thirds of both Houses concurring.) That the following ar-ticles be proposed to the Legislatures (or Conventions) of the several States as amendments to the Constitution of the United States, all or any of which articles, when ratified by three-fourths of the said Legislatures, (or Conventions,) to be valid as part or parts of the said Constitu-

"ARTICLE -. Every State wherein slavery now exists which shall abolish the same therein at any time or times before the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand and nine hundred, shall receive compensation

every such State bonds of the United States, bearing interest at the rate of — per cent per annum, to an amount equal to the aggregate sum of — for each slave shown to have been therein by the eighth census of the United States, said bonds to be delivered to such State by instalments, or in one parcel, at the completion of the abolishment, accordingly as the same shall have been gradual, or at one time, within such State; and interest shall begin to run upon say such bond only from the proper time of its ery as aforesaid. Any State having received bonds President's recommendation, will be found in the following army order:

as aforesaid, and afterwards reintroducing or tolerating slavery therein, shall refund to the United States the bonds so received, or the value thereof, and all interest

ARTICLE -. All slaves who shall have enjoyed actual freedom by the chances of the war, at any time before the end of the rebellion, shall be forever free; but all owners of such who shall not have been disloyal shall be compensated for them, at the same rates as is provided for States adopting abolishment of slavery, but in such way that no slave shall be twice accounted for.

"ARTICLE — Congress may appropriate money, and otherwise provide, for colonizing free colored persons, with their own consent, at any place or places without the

Notwithstanding the great elaboration which the President gave to this scheme of pacification. and notwithstanding the assured confidence with which he submitted it to the favorable consideration of Congress as a sovereign remedy for the evils which afflict the State, it is to be remarked that the President's supporters have not given the slightest attention to his recommendations in either House of Congress. And the press which professes to be devoted to the "support" of the Administration seems, by a tacit consent, to have left en tirely out of public sight this Presidential "plan of compromise." This neglect is the more surprising because of the solemn sanctions under which Mr. Lincoln announced his faith-we should say his knowledge-as to the efficacy of the aforesaid "plan;" for, after giving to it an extended discussion, he closed his appeal in its behalf with the following emphatic adjurations:

"I do not forget the gravity which should characterize a paper addressed to the Congress of the nation by the Chief Magistrate of the nation. Nor do I forget that some of you are my seniors; nor that many of you have more ex-perience than I in the conduct of public affairs. Yet I trust that, in view of the great responsibility resting upon me, you will perceive no want of respect to yourselves in

me, you will perceive to want of respect to yourselves in any undure earne-tness I may seem to display.

"Is it doubted, then, that the plan I propose, if adopted, would shorten the war and thus less-nits expenditure of money and of blood? Is it doubted that it would restore the national authority and national prosperity, and perpet-uate both indefinitely? Is it doubted that we here—Conthe good people respond to a united and earnest appeal from us? Can we, can they, by any other means, so there is a contract these vital objects? We can succeed only by c ncert. It is not 'can any of us imagine better?' but 'can we all do better?' Object whatsoever is possible, still the question recurs 'can we do better?' The degmas of the qu'et past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think snew and not snew. must disenthrall ourselves and then we shall save our

"Fellow-citizens, we cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this Administration will be remembered in spite of curselves. No personal significance or insignificance cen spare one or aucther of us. The fiery trial through which we pass will light us down in bonor or dis honor to the latest generation. We say we are for the Union. The world will not forget that we say this. We know how to save the Union. The world knows we do know how to save it. We—even no here—hold the power and bear the responsibility. In giving freedom to the slave we assure freedom to the free—honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve. We shall nobly save or meanly lose the last best hope of earth. Other means may succeed; this could not fail. The way is plain, peaceful, generous, just—a way which, if followed, the world will orever applaud and God must forever bless."

We here have an affirmation of the following

1. This plan, whatever may be said of other means, " cou'd not fail " 2. Congress and the Executive can secure its

adoption. 3. Congress and the Executive "know how to save the Union" by adopting this plan, and "the world knows that they know how to save it."

Such being the state of the case, as it presented itself to the mind of Mr. Lincoln, who can wonder that the "fiery trial" through which the country is passing seemed to him one that would "light down" Congress and the Executive "in honor or dishonor to the latest generation?" It will be the verdict of history that while the fires of this trial waxed hottest the President of the United States was either so unfortunate in appreciating the times in which he was called to act that he recommended a plan which deserved no support at the hands of Congress, or, if it deserved support, that the Congress was so blindly indifferent to duly that it refused to give the slightest heed to a plan which could not have failed to save the Union. This responsibility is assumed by the President for himhighly-colored dreams may be rudely broken by self and the National Legislature. The tribunal this shock, as a Republican contemporary calls it, of history can alone award to each the "honor or and it may be, as another journal suggests, that dishonor" that is certainly due to the one or the other, according to the idea of the President. We homes and former associations, under the delusive shall not undertake to presage its judgment, but, before the present Congress adjourns, we wish to idleness, will be so undeceived that many of them | remind its members of the accountability to which either they or the President must be held in the eyes of "the world," if the former shall adjourn without adopting "the plan" of the latter.

> It is sa'd that at least one hundred thousand men are yet wanting under the last call of the President, of which not less than thirty-five thousand are due from the State of New York alone. Every New England State has filled her quots, except New Hampshire, the last regiment in which has been organized, but lacks a few hundred men.

[Boston Journal.

The first legal decision under the President's emancipation preclamation was made on Thursday last in St. Louis, by Judge Clover, who decided in favor of its legality, and ordered the d scharge of a slave of a rebel, who had been arrested under State law for leaving his master. This decision, if sus ained, leaves Missouri secessionists without

THE PRESIDENT'S " FRIEN It will be remembered by our readers that all a year ago a "Lecture Association" enforcement of a policy which, if adopted, would, the inhabitants of the national metropolis to Amo g the men who, with others of like faith as consideration of Congress in the shape of certain standing, were selected as teachers and goldent instruct us in the elements of literature and lo alty was Mr. Wendell Phillips, who, after hi was deemed to have credentials which authors cated him as a proper person to inculcate the de ties appropriate to the " present crisis." Since that date Mr. Phillips has been an acr

ed exponent of the ideas which have pred in the conduct of the war. He called for a Pre mation of Freedom. A Proclamation of Freedom has been issued. He called for the remo Buell and McClellan. Buell and McClellan have been removed. Again and again has he seed his shaft at the President, and yet the " archer" is not satisfied with the execution he has done. He cries for "more." He still rails at the President, at the Secretary of State, at Congre at the Army of the Potomac, and at almost cobody and every thing else under the one. we suppose is "loyalty" of the latest patent and the purest water, for we observe that his language rectives no reprehension from those custodians of the Administration's honor who have such a keen scent in tracing the signs of "disaffection" and "semi-loyalty" in every animadversion proescding from conservative sources.

Mr. Phillips, it is known, was recently in our city, having come hither, it is said, on a "mission" which found its motive and explanation in the recent "order" of the Secretary of War authorizing the Governor of Massachusetts "to raise such number of volunteer companies of artillery for duty in the forts of Massachusetts and elsewhere, and such corps of infantry for the volunteer military service as he may find convenient; such volunteers to be enlisted for three years, unless sooner discharged, and may include persons of African descent, organized into separate corps." In giving publication to the order, the National Republican" of this city said :

"This order from the Secretary of War authorizes the raising of regiments of black men in Massachusetts. This is the secret of the late mission of Gov. Andrew, Wendell Phillips, F. W. Bird, Dr. Howe, and a host of others of the radical school of politics in Massachusetts to this city, and accounts for their many and frequent interviews with On last Tuesday Mr. Phillips, after his visit to

this city, delivered in Brooklyn a Lecture on "Our Future," which we find reported at length in the columns of the New York Tribune. Our contemporary, in giving place to the discourse, accompanies it with the following editorial endorsement: "Exposing the polished fictions of diplomacy and the decorous hypocrisy of statecraft, Mr. Phillips discerns and declares with unequalled courage of speech what he conceives to be the duty of the hour, and summons the nation to the task which lies before it."

Such being "the hour and the man," we invite our readers to mark the utterances which are expressive of the latest style of "loyalty," and to compare them with the animadversions which, as emanating from some of the President's political opponents, are held to be hardly less than treasonsble. We quote from the Tribune's report of Mr. -Phillips's speech delivered on the 8d instant :

"What we need is a Cabinet and President, not the mass behind them. [Applause.] Now, I found no Cabinet in Washington, but only a snag. And as for a President, I found a very honest man. But I will tell you what I think he was made of. He has stood for thirty years in Springfield, the centre of Lil nois; to the north of him the northern half of the State, free, educated, intelligent, Republican; to the southern half of him, Egypt, ignorant, pro-slavery, worse than doughface - that would provement—Southern, servile, dark. He has been balancing all his life to be popular with both—and he is the result of the balance. [Laughter and applause] That is the education of thirty years. No blame of his. He lived there. He could not belp it. He has succeeded in being the favorite of that mosaic State of Illinois, and the result is Abraham Lincoln [Cheers.] Well, now, there is no use in deceiving ourselves; there is no use, when we take account of stock, of marking our goods too high. ""

"Everybody that goes to Washington goes back more despondingly than he went. I found nobody who went there who kept as much hope in the city as he carried. He gets away from its atmosphere home again; and looks over the whole field, remembers how litte men are and how great events are; believes in the providence of God Southern, servile, dark. He has been balanc-

how great events are; believes in the providence of God overhead; beli ves in the tlave; and takes courage. But that ought not to be, and that need not be. The White House is assailable. Every man, even our Illin is politi-

cian, has got a conscience. "We may let him feel that the voice of the North says amen to the proclamation, endorses it. Col. Forney said to me, 'It saved Pennsylvania; we could have nothing without it.' Convince the President of that. Tell him also that his success iles in making it a reality within sixty days. How you shall do it you know as well as I do. But if it is not done, we are in the shallow; the ship strikes a rock this side and upon the other. In a month, Congress goes home and leaves the Executive and his Administration alone.

" Press forward with the bayonet of Republican demand. This Administration, which does little enough with the bayonet behind it, will do nothing at all with a Democratic drag under its feet. No one can guess any thing of the drag under its feet. No one can guess any thing of the inscrutable purposes of Providence in the immediate future. We can only arrange ourselves around the leader, and endeavor to make him bresst the storm. You and I are comparatively powerless. It is of public opinion that I speak. That Senate and that House know enough to save the nation, and they will not tell it. They stand able to the high the same that the senate and the same that the same push this Administration from their stools, and they dare not take the risk. They say, 'We put in peril the nation.' I reply to them, 'Yes, you do; but when the patient is dying he must be treated somehow or other.'
"There are facts known to a hundred men in this nation

"There are facts known to a hundred men in this nation that would make the very ears of the people tingle; but their leaders at Washington, the men that know them, keep them secret because they dare not distrust the chances, as they think, of success. Timidity in every quarter! Boldness in the people is our only security. I come to you not to make a sprech, but as I mean to go up and down your great river, along your great highway, and look into New England, to ask of the people to speak in a voice that must inevitably penetrate the White House, and demand of Lincoln, before the first of May dawns, five hundred thousand black men with muskets in their arms. hundred thousand black men with maskets in their arms, and the Stars and Stripes above them, in a new State, swearing by the Union. [Applause] Then I will agree to stop and never speak of the 'everlasting nigger' sgain."

RECOVERY OF LOST CERTIFICATES. The Treasury Department received yesterday through

Officer Hogan, of the Metropolitan Police, the certificates of indebtedness which were stolen some weeks ago from the room of the United States Treasurer. These orriffcates were in sums of five thousand dollars each, and amounted in all to two and a half millions of dollars, but, being unfinished, and the Department taving not fied the public of the loss, the thief probably found it useless to offer them in the market, and sent them to Officer Hogan through the mail.

PORT HUDSON.

Port Hudson, which is twenty miles above Baton Rouge, on the Mississippi, stands on an almost perpendicular cliff, full two hundred feet in height, the river below making full two hundred feet in height, the river below making one of those sudden serpentine curves which render the Mississippi the most tortuous stream in the world, and abruptly narrowing its dimensions to three quarters f a mile from twice that width above and below. Inland, too, the position is emivently favorable to the rebels, because difficult of access to our troops. Unlike Vicksburg, the approaches to which are as good as could be desired for an invading stmy, consisting for the most part of hard well made roads, the country at the back of Port Hudson is generally swampy, intersected with cotton-woods, ravines, and other topographical obstacles. The only roads are of the poorest description.